

That which is claimed is:

1. Medical device comprising:
  - a housing;
  - a needle projecting forwardly from the housing;
  - a biasing element biasing the needle rearwardly;
  - a needle retainer releasably retaining the needle against the bias of the biasing element;
  - a Y-port slidably displaceable within the housing, comprising:
    - a first conduit in fluid communications with the needle; and
    - a second conduit transverse the first conduit, in fluid communication with the needle;
  - an actuator operable to release the needle from the needle retainer;
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the actuator is manually actuatable.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the first conduit has a generally open end and the device comprises a piercable seal sealing the open end of the first conduit.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein the device comprises a rearward stop limiting the rearward displacement of the needle after retraction.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein the device comprises a forward stop limiting the forward displacement of the needle after retraction.
6. A medical device comprising:
  - a longitudinally elongated hollow housing having a generally open rearward end;

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- a Y-port slidably displaceable within the housing, comprising:  
a first conduit substantially axially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the housing;  
a second conduit transverse the first conduit;  
a needle fixedly connected to the Y-port, projecting forwardly from the housing, wherein the needle is in fluid communication with the first and second conduits of the Y-port;  
a biasing element biasing the Y-port rearwardly;  
a manually actuatable actuator operable to release the Y-port so that the biasing element propels the Y-port rearwardly.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the first conduit has a generally open end and the device comprises a piercable seal sealing the open end of the first conduit.
8. The device of claim 6 wherein the device comprises a rearward stop limiting the rearward displacement of the needle after retraction.
9. The device of claim 6 wherein the device comprises a forward stop limiting the forward displacement of the needle after retraction.
10. An apparatus comprising:  
a catheter having forward cannula portion and a body portion; and  
an insertion device disengageably connected with the catheter, the insertion device having:  
a barrel;  
a forward engagement portion connected with the barrel for holding the catheter in

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engagement with the barrel in an initial configuration;  
a needle holding assembly slidably positioned within the barrel;  
a needle held by the needle holding assembly and extending from the front of the barrel in the initial configuration;  
a spring positioned between the forward engagement portion and the needle holding assembly for exerting a rearward bias upon the needle holding assembly in the initial configuration;  
and  
a lever pivotally connected to the barrel and extending along the barrel, the lever having a forward portion abutting against the catheter at the forward engagement portion of the barrel in the initial configuration, and the lever having a rear camming portion extending into the barrel in abutment with the needle holding assembly.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the body portion of the catheter is formed to provide a first fluid path extending from the cannula to a rear end of the body portion and a second fluid path extending from the cannula to a branch conduit formed in the body portion.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein a piercable septum is positioned on the rear of the body portion, and wherein the needle extends through the piercable septum in the initial configuration.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the lever is positioned along one side of the barrel allowing

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selective release of the lever when the needle has been withdrawn from the catheter.

14. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the needle holding assembly is configured to provide a flash back chamber.

15. An insertion device for a catheter having a cannula, a body, and a piercable rear septum, the insertion device comprising:

- a barrel;
- a forward engagement portion connected with the barrel for holding the catheter in engagement with the barrel in an initial configuration;
- a needle holding assembly slidably positioned within the barrel;
- a needle held in the needle holding assembly and extending from the front of barrel in the initial configuration;
- a spring positioned between the forward engagement portion and the needle holding assembly for exerting a rearward bias upon the needle holding assembly in the initial configuration; and
- a lever pivotally connected to the barrel and extending along the barrel, the lever having a forward portion abutting against the catheter at the forward engagement portion of the barrel in the initial configuration, and the lever having a rear camming portion extending into the barrel in abutment with the needle holding assembly, whereby the rear portion of the lever is biased to move out of abutment with the needle holding assembly.

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16. The insertion device of claim 14 wherein the needle extends through the septum with sufficient friction therebetween during disengagement of the insertion device from the catheter to prevent motion of the needle holding assembly due to the rearward bias.

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